

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2459 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY PROBST, GIRAL, RABB, STEELE, HOHENSTEIN, HADDOCK,  
RADER, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, ZIMMERMAN, DALEY AND GREEN,  
JUNE 27, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 27, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in decrees and records, further  
3 providing for definitions and for original birth record.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. The definition of "noncertified copy of original  
7 birth record" in section 2911 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 2911. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 \* \* \*

14 "Noncertified copy of original birth record." A [summary]  
15 photocopy of original birth record[, similar in form to a  
16 certified copy of an original birth record and consisting of  
17 only the names and ages of the birth parents, the date and  
18 county of the birth of the child and the name given to the child

1 at birth.] with the following notation: "This is not a certified  
2 copy of a birth record."

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. Section 2937(a) and (c) of Title 23 are amended  
5 to read:

6 § 2937. Original birth record.

7 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any other provision of  
8 law, an adoptee who is at least 18 years of age [and who has  
9 graduated from high school, completed a General Educational  
10 Development program or has legally withdrawn from secondary  
11 schooling] or, if the adoptee is deceased, the adoptee's  
12 descendants, may apply to the Department of Health for the  
13 adoptee's noncertified copy of original birth record. Subject to  
14 [subsections (b) and (c)] subsection (b), the Department of  
15 Health shall issue a noncertified copy of original birth record  
16 within 45 days of receipt of an application if the application  
17 complies with the requirements of subsection (d).

18 \* \* \*

19 [(c) Redaction request form.--A birth parent may request  
20 that the birth parent's name be redacted from a noncertified  
21 copy of original birth record issued to an adoptee in accordance  
22 with the following:

23 (1) The Department of Health shall prescribe a birth  
24 parent's name redaction request form. The form shall include  
25 all of the following:

26 (i) Information about the procedures and  
27 requirements for a birth parent to do either of the  
28 following:

29 (A) Have the form placed in the adoption file of  
30 the adoptee who is the birth child of the birth

1 parent so that the birth parent's name is redacted  
2 from the noncertified copy of original birth record  
3 issued to the adoptee.

4 (B) Have the form removed from the adoption file  
5 of the adoptee if the birth parent later decides to  
6 permit the birth parent's name to be included on the  
7 noncertified copy of original birth record.

8 (ii) Provisions necessary for the Department of  
9 Health to be able to identify the adoption file of the  
10 adoptee to whom the form pertains.

11 (iii) A place for the birth parent to attest that  
12 the birth parent is the birth parent of the adoptee to  
13 whom the form pertains.

14 (2) The Department of Health shall make a birth parent's  
15 name redaction request form available upon request following  
16 the effective date of this subsection. The Department of  
17 Health shall accept a name redaction request form if all of  
18 the following apply:

19 (i) The form has been notarized.

20 (ii) The birth parent provides two items of  
21 identification of the birth parent.

22 (iii) If a medical history for the birth parent was  
23 not previously prepared, or the medical history was  
24 prepared but needs to be updated, the birth parent does  
25 the following, as appropriate:

26 (A) Completes a medical history form.

27 (B) Updates the birth parent's medical history  
28 information.

29 (iv) The Department of Health is satisfied that the  
30 form has been substantially completed.

1 (3) The Department of Health shall file an accepted name  
2 redaction request form in the adoption file of the adoptee to  
3 whom the form pertains.

4 (4) A birth parent may request at any time that the  
5 Department of Health remove the name redaction request form  
6 from the adoption file of the adoptee to whom the form  
7 pertains. The Department of Health shall remove the form if  
8 the birth parent provides the department all of the  
9 following:

10 (i) Two items of identification of the birth parent.

11 (ii) Information the Department of Health needs to  
12 be able to identify the adoption file of the adoptee to  
13 whom the form pertains.

14 (iii) A notarized attestation that the birth parent  
15 is the birth parent of the adoptee to whom the form  
16 pertains.

17 (5) A name redaction request form removed from an  
18 adoption file shall be destroyed.

19 (6) The Department of Health shall include on its  
20 Internet website information about birth parents' name  
21 redaction request forms. All of the following information  
22 shall be provided:

23 (i) The purpose of the form.

24 (ii) The procedures to be followed and requirements  
25 to be met for the Department of Health to accept the  
26 form.

27 (iii) The date when birth parents may begin to file  
28 the form with the Department of Health.

29 (iv) The procedures to be followed and requirements  
30 to be met for having the form removed from an adoption

1 file.

2 (v) Any other information the Department of Health  
3 considers necessary.

4 (7) If the birth parent dies after submitting a name  
5 redaction request form, a noncertified copy of original birth  
6 record may be provided to the adoptee without redaction of  
7 the deceased birth parent's name.]

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.